

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 01910 141039Z

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4623

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 1910

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: CDES TC (ALFORD, DAVID LEE)

SUBJ: DEATH CASE: DAVID LEE ALFORD

REF: STATE 172040, STATE 172882, ABU DHABI 1884

1. SENATOR BROOK AND CONGRESSWOMAN LLOYD INTERESTED.

2. REQUEST DEPARTMENT ADVISE FAMILY OF DECEASED INCLUDING MRS. BETTY WHITE AND MR. NICK ALFORD, TELEPHONE: (615) 624-5089 THAT IT IS EXPRESSED DESIRE OF MRS. DONNA M. ALFORD THAT HERE HUSBAND DAVID LEE ALFORD BE BURIED FORTHWITH. PLEASE ALSO ADVISE FUNERAL HOME OF THIS DESIRE. CHATTANOOGA FUNERAL HOME, TELEPHONE (615) 698-2541.

3. SINCE MRS. ALFORD, BASED ON SERVERAL TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH HER, OBVIOUSLY DISTRAUGHT AND IN NEED OF HAND-HOLDING, CONSULAR OFFICER TRAVELED TO AL-AIN AND SPENT GREATER PART OF DAY JULY 13 WITH HER. JULY 14 LOCAL CONSULAR ASSISTANT TRAVELING AL-AIN TO PERFORM SAME SERVICE AND IN ORDER BE ON HAND WHEN HEARING ON COMPENSATION HELD IN EASTERN PROVINCE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OFFICE.

4. MRS. ALFORD'S STATUS IS AS FOLLOWS: ALTHOUGH COMPANY MANGER, JERRY CALHOUN, HAS APPARENTLY AGREED FURNISH MRS. ALFORD AND CHILDREN WITH TICKETS BACK TO U.S., HE IS REFUSING PAY TO HER FULL COMPENSATION REQUIRED UNDER LOCAL LABOR LAWS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 ABU DH 01910 141039Z

CASES WHEREIN DEATH OF EMPLOYEE OCCURS WHILE ON

THE JOB. FURTHERMORE, CALHOUN IS REFUSING PAY ANY OF FUNERAL COSTS. MRS. ALFORD DOES NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS OF HER OWN DEFRAID TRAVEL COSTS AND FUNERAL EXPENSES. ALSO APPARENTLY MR ALFORD HAS NO INSURANCE COVERAGE AND LEFT LITTLE IN WAY OF ESTATE. FURTHERMORE, CALHOUN'S COMPANY PROVIDES NO INSURANCE COVERAGE OR OTHER DEATH GRATUITIES/ BENEFITS. THEREFORE, MRS. ALFORD BELIEVES THAT SHE MUST REMAIN IN UAE UNTIL SHE ABLE OBTAIN AS MUCH COMPENSATION AS POSSIBLE WHICH MAY ACQUIRE TO HER UNDER LOCAL LAWS. EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEES OF CALHOUN'S COMPANY ENGAGED UNDER LOCAL CONTRACTS WHICH WERE SIGNED IN AND ARE REGISTERED WITH ABU DHABI DEPARTMENT OF LABOR).

5. MRS. ALFORD HAS ENGAGED LOCAL ATTORNEY IN AL-AIN. MORNING OF JULY 13 AN MEETING AT AL-AIN LABOR OFFICE CALHOUN APPARENTLY REFUSED PROVIDE COMPENSATION. MORNING JULY 14, PARTIES SCHEDULED APPEAR ONCE AGAIN AT LABOR OFFICE WITH CALHOUN PROVIDING ALFORD'S CONTRACT FOR REVIEW BY OFFICIALS. OFFICIALS WILL RENDER DECISION ON AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION DUE TO MRS. CALHOUN. IF CALHOUN STILL REFUSES PAY THIS COMPENSATION, THEN MATTER WILL HAVE TO GO TO COURT. THEREFORE, MRS. ALFORD NOT SURE WHEN SHE WILL BE ABLE DEPART ABU DHABI FOR U.S.

6. GOVERNOR OF EASTERN PROVINCE, SHIKH TAHNUN BIN MOHAMMED, HAS TAKEN PERSONAL INTEREST IN CASE AND HAS BEEN MODEL OF ARAB HOSPITALITY. TAHNUN HAS ORDERED OFFICIALS EXPEDITE CASE, HE HAS PROVIDED GOVERNMENT GUEST HOUSE TO MRS. ALFORD WHEN SHE EVICTED BY CALHOUN FROM HER COMPANY LEASED HOUSE, AND HE HAS ORDERED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO RENDER ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE. POLICE OFFICIALS IN PARTICULAR HAVE BEEN MOST HELPFUL TO MRS. ALFORD PROVIDING HER WITH TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER SERVICES.

7. EMBASSY IS FOLLOWING CASE CLOSELY AND WILL ADVISE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 ABU DH 01910 141039Z

AS DEVELOPMENTS OCCUR. IF CALHOUN CONTINUES REFUSE PAY, WE WILL ATTEMPT PREVAIL UPON HIM DO SO (IN ADDITION TO SERVING ON HIM WARRANT FOR HIS ARREST WHICH ISSUED BY UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA). STERNER

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